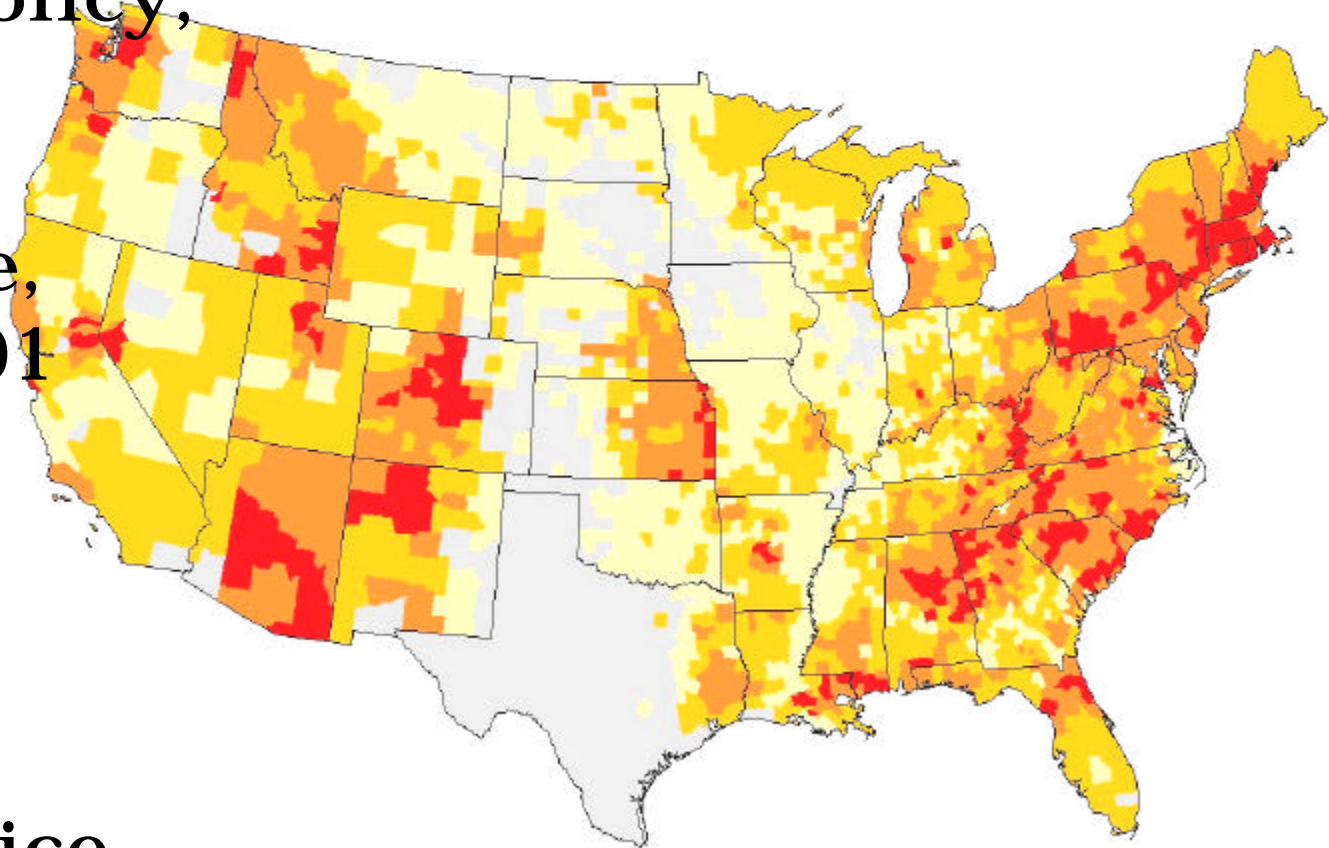


Demographic Change and Natural Resources: Implications for resource managers

Resource Policy,
Values and
Economics
Shortcourse,
May 17, 2001

Cassandra
Johnson,
USDA
Forest Service



The Changing American Society

- About 1 million new immigrants per year
- Region of origin of foreign-born population in the United States

Region of Origin	1850	1900	1950	1970	1990
Canada and Europe	97%	98%	89%	67%	26%
Caribbean and Latin America	1	1	6	19	43
Asia	0	1	3	9	25
All others	2	0	2	5	6
Total foreign-born population (in millions)	2.2	10.3	10.4	9.6	19.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census (1975; Part 1: 1993).

- Changing ethnicities by 2050:
 - Anglo Americans 76%→50%
 - African Americans 12% →15%
 - Hispanic Americans 9% →21%
 - Asian Americans 4% →11%

**A BASIC QUESTION:
IS WILDERNESS STILL
APPROPRIATE AND
WANTED BY TODAY'S
U. S. SOCIETY?**

NSRE 2000

- A sample of over 50,000 households, from the Keys to Arctic Wildlife Refuge
- Includes individuals 16 years or older
- Ties back to the first National Recreation Survey, Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission in 1960
- Is the Nation's on-going recreation survey, the 8th
- Interagency sponsorship—USFS, NOAA, ERS, EPA, NPS, BLM.
- Others involved, National Scenic Byways Program, Heritage, Wilderness, Bicycle Safety, The Heinz Center
- State of the Art delivery—Internet, books and reports

Public Views on Wilderness

- Nationally about 1/2 of American's 16+ report knowing about the NWPS
- Only 4.4% feel we have put too many acres into the NWPS:
 - Not enough, 52.6%
 - About right, 26.9%
 - Too much, 4.4%
 - Not sure, 15.4%

TOP 5 VALUES



-
- Protecting air quality
 - Protecting water quality
 - Protecting wildlife habitat
 - Protecting T&E species
 - Legacy for future generations
- (By Majority Vote)

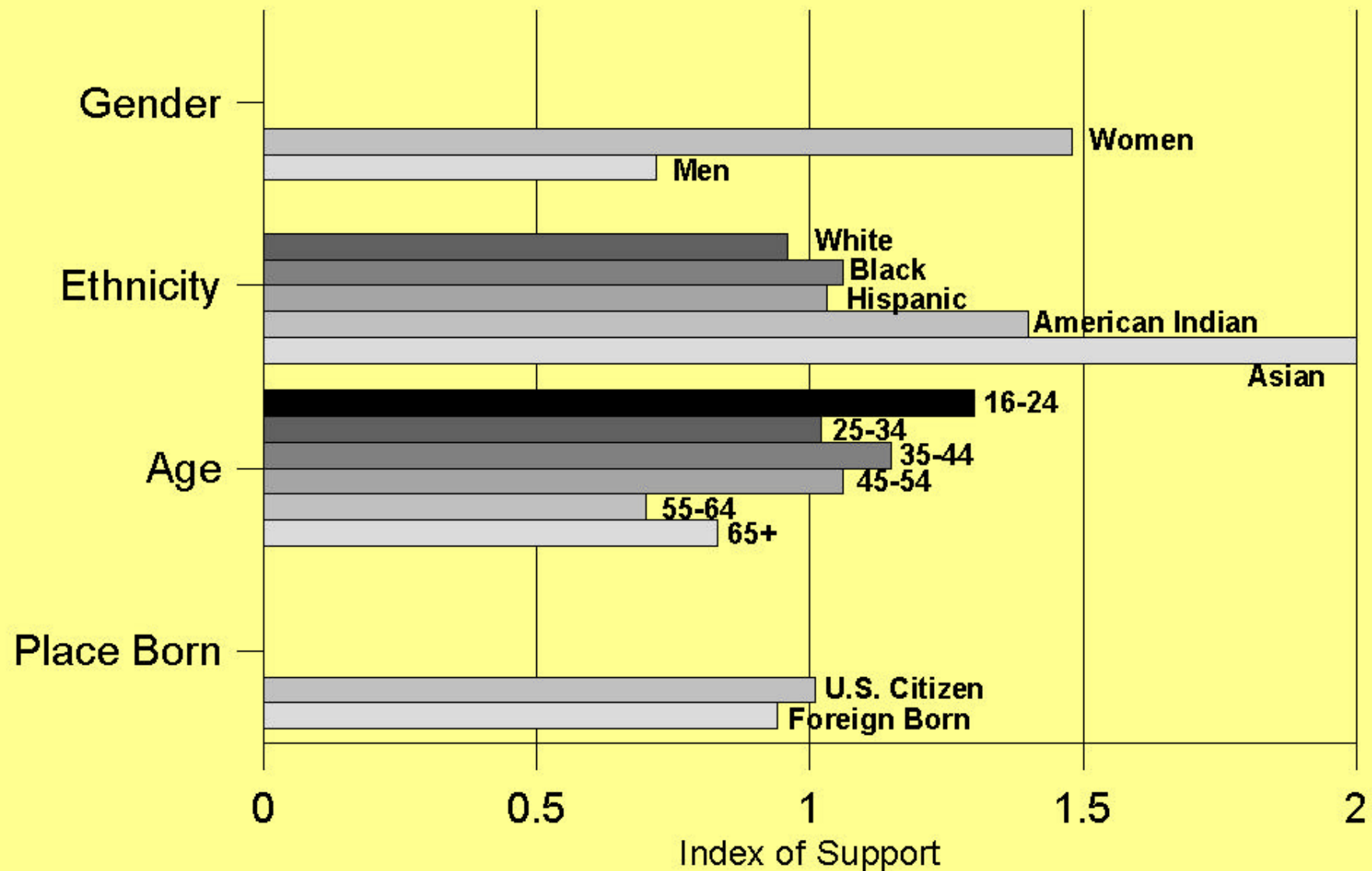
Lowest 4 Values

- **Providing recreation opportunities**
- **Providing spiritual inspiration**
- **Using areas for scientific study**
- **Stimulate income for tourism industry**

(All Ballots Counted)

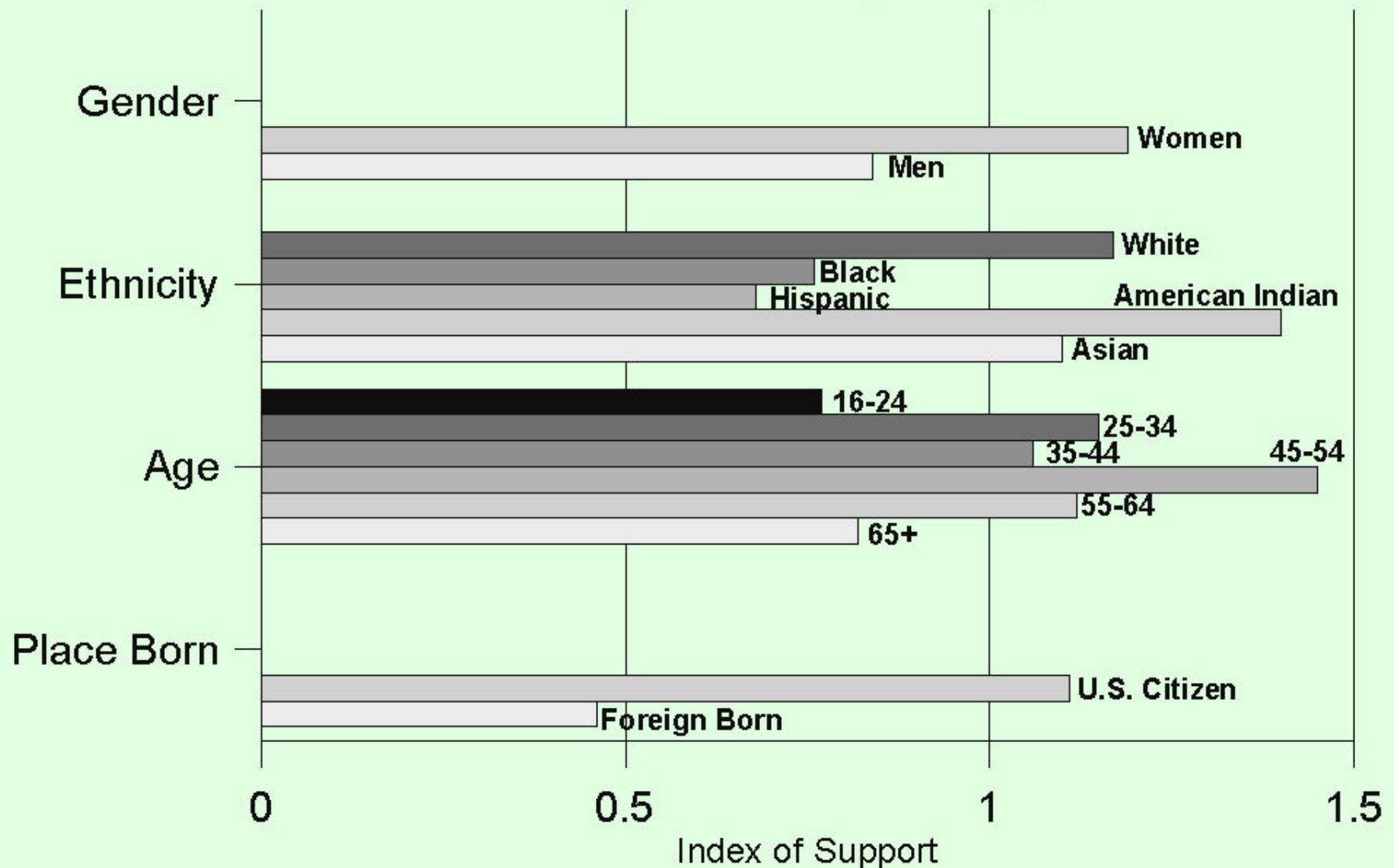
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Protecting air quality



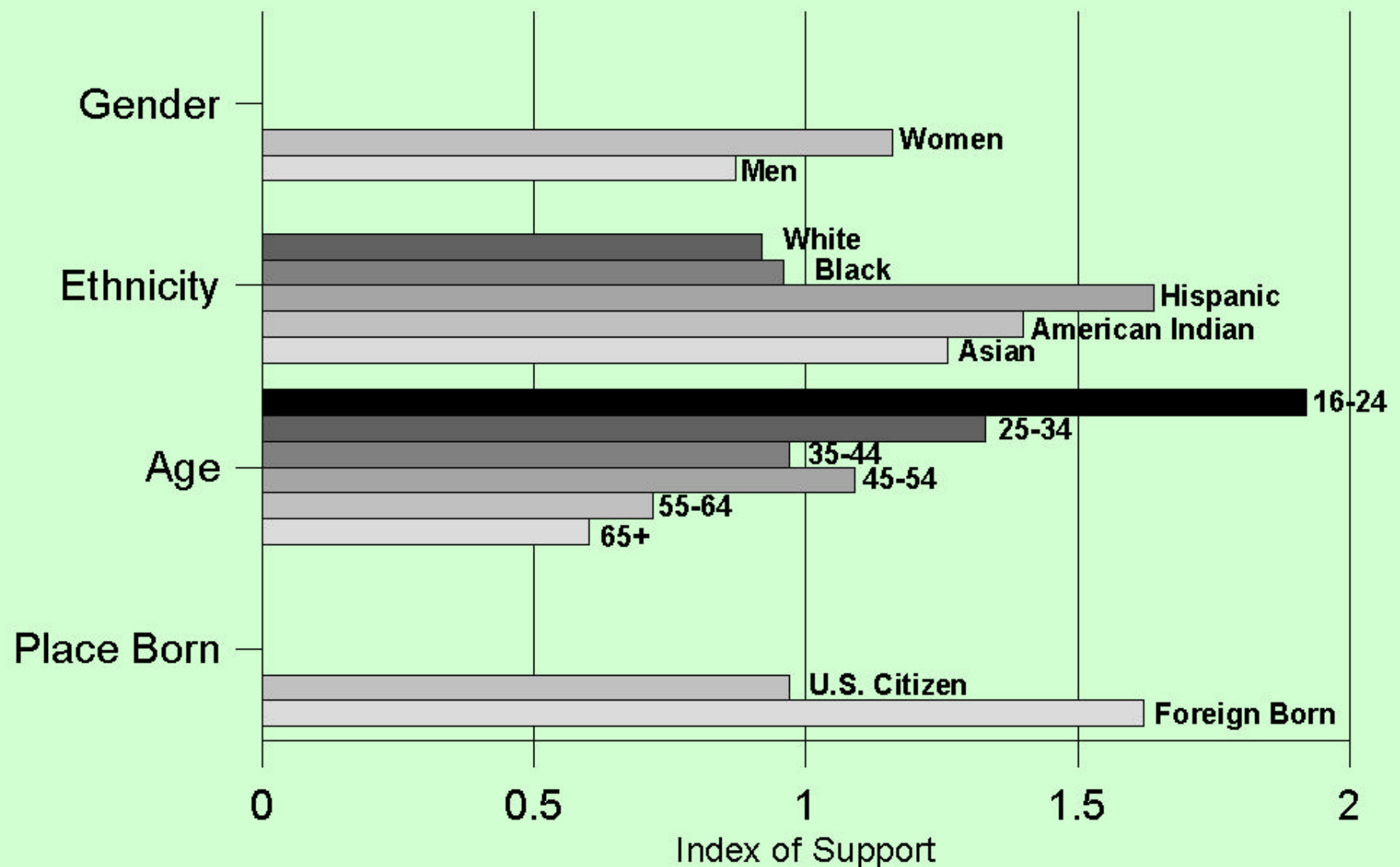
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Protecting Water Quality



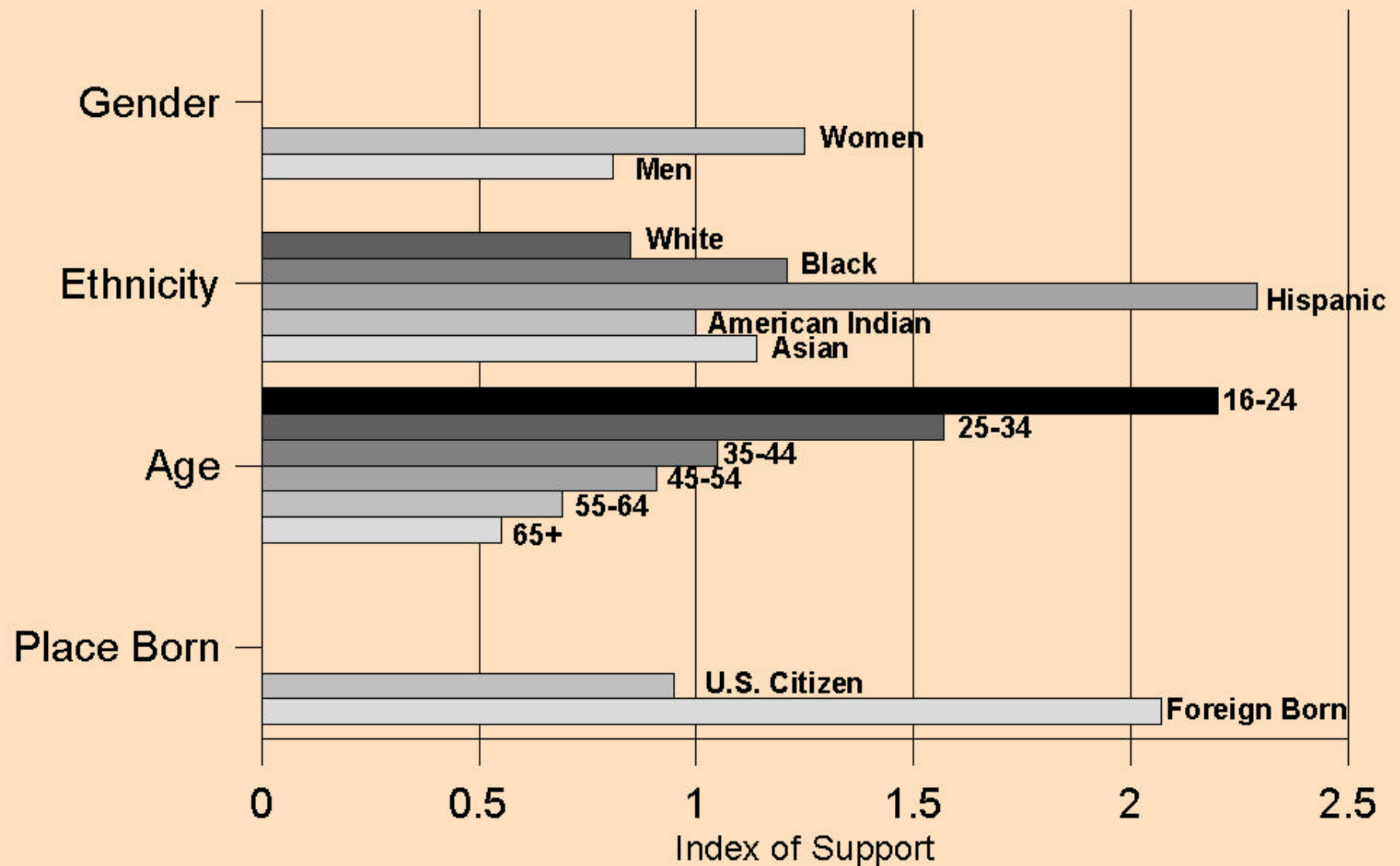
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Protecting wildlife habitat



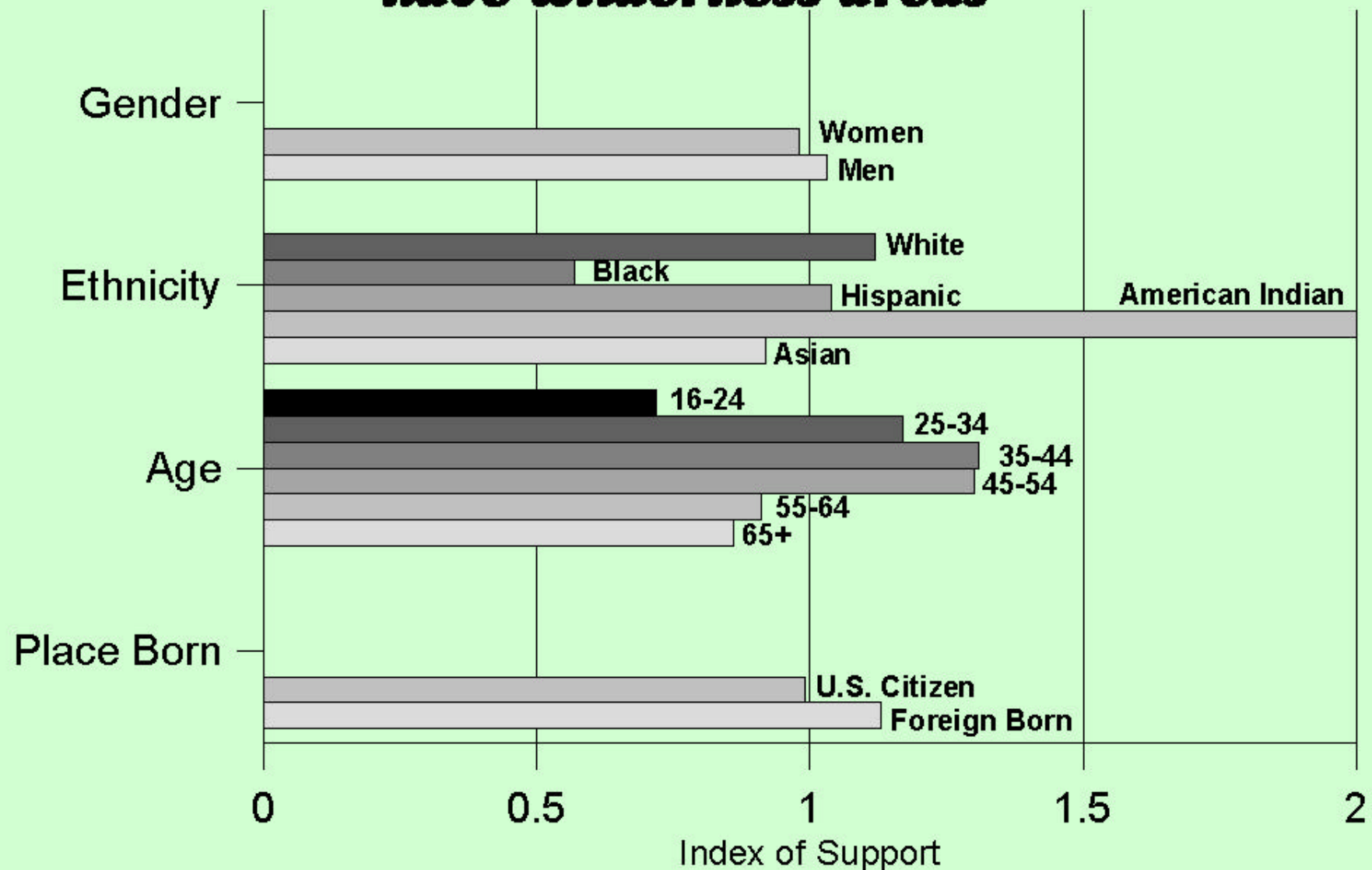
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Protecting rare and endangered species



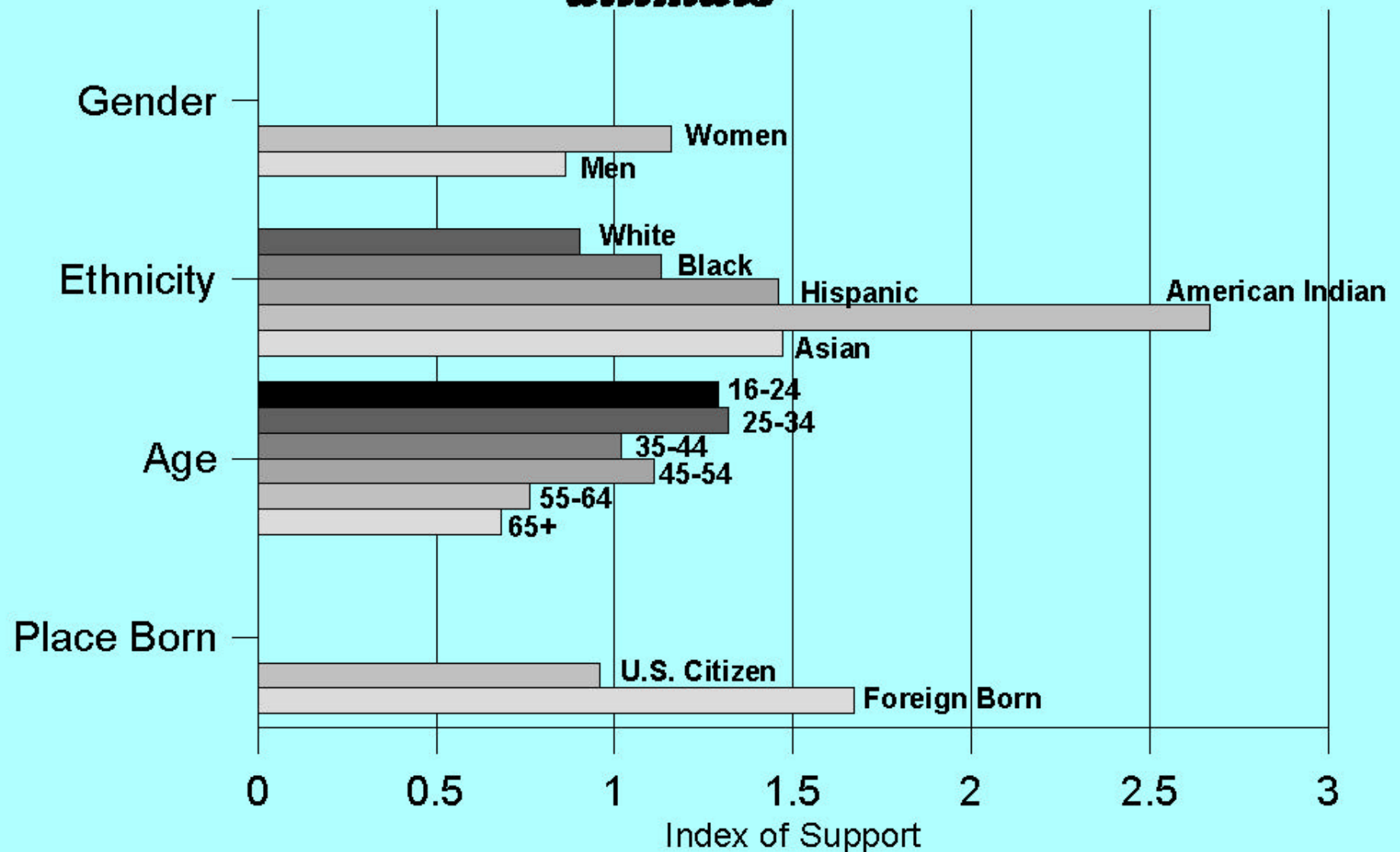
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Knowing that future generations will have wilderness areas



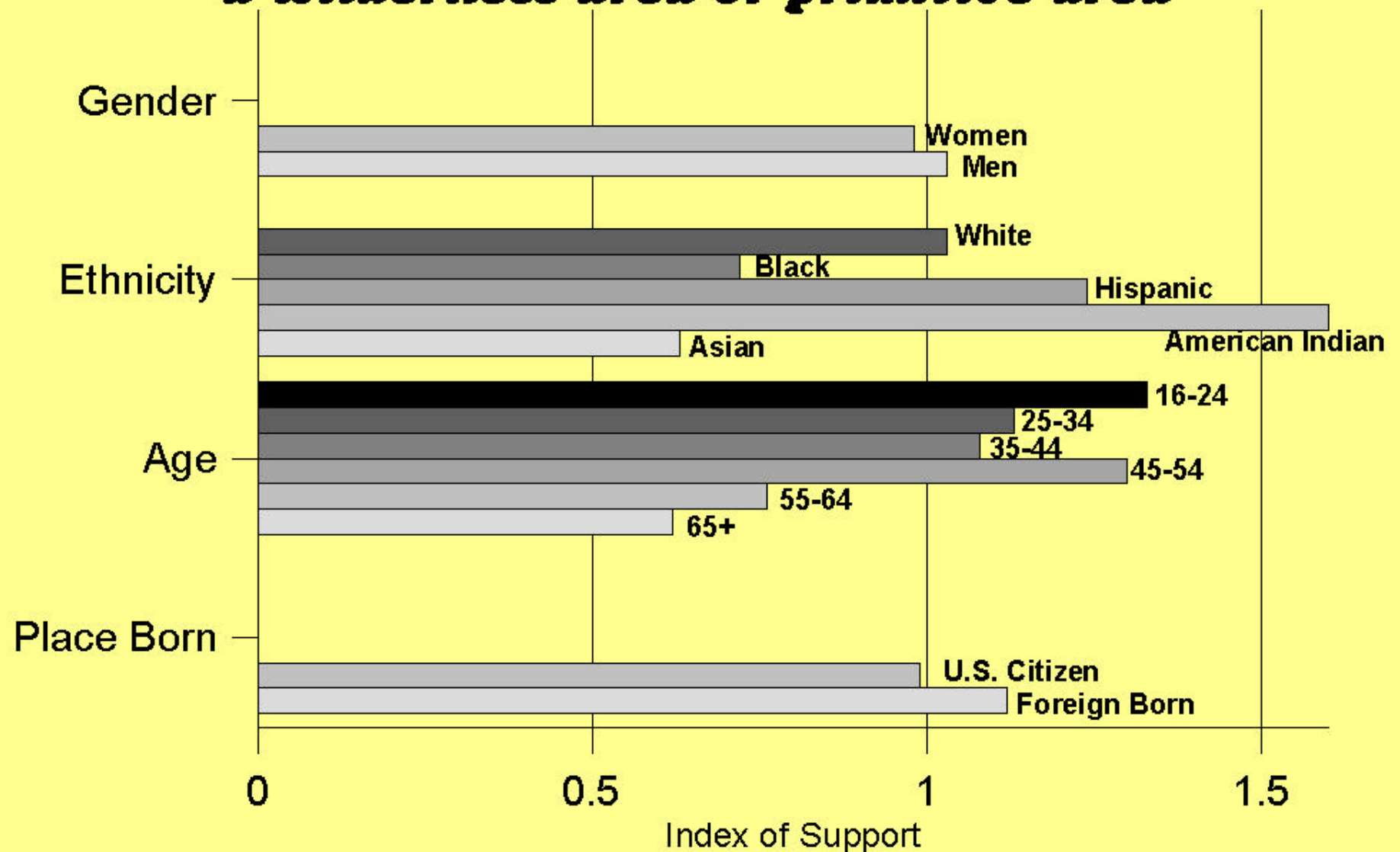
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Preserving unique wild plants and animals



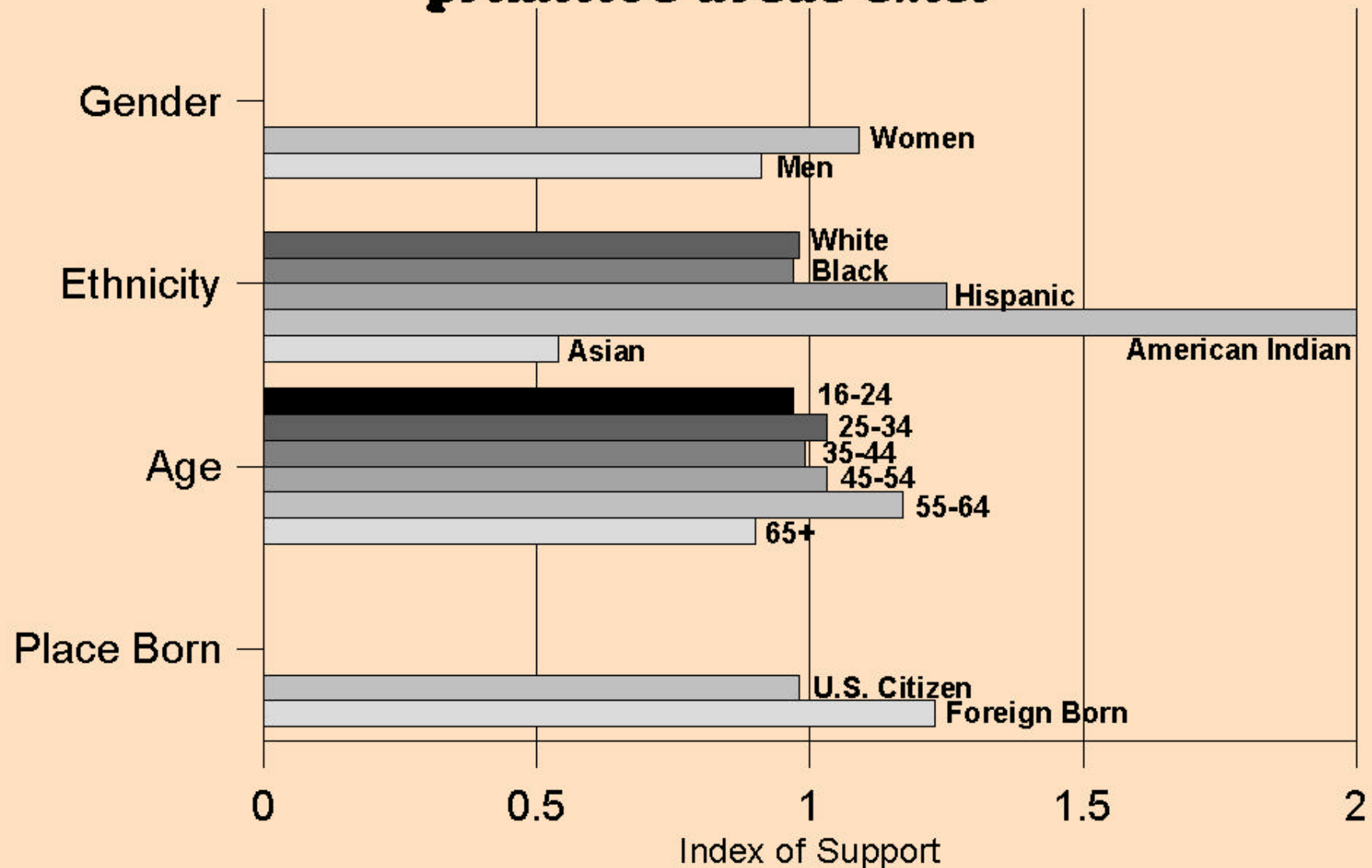
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

***Knowing I will have future option to visit
a wilderness area or primitive area***



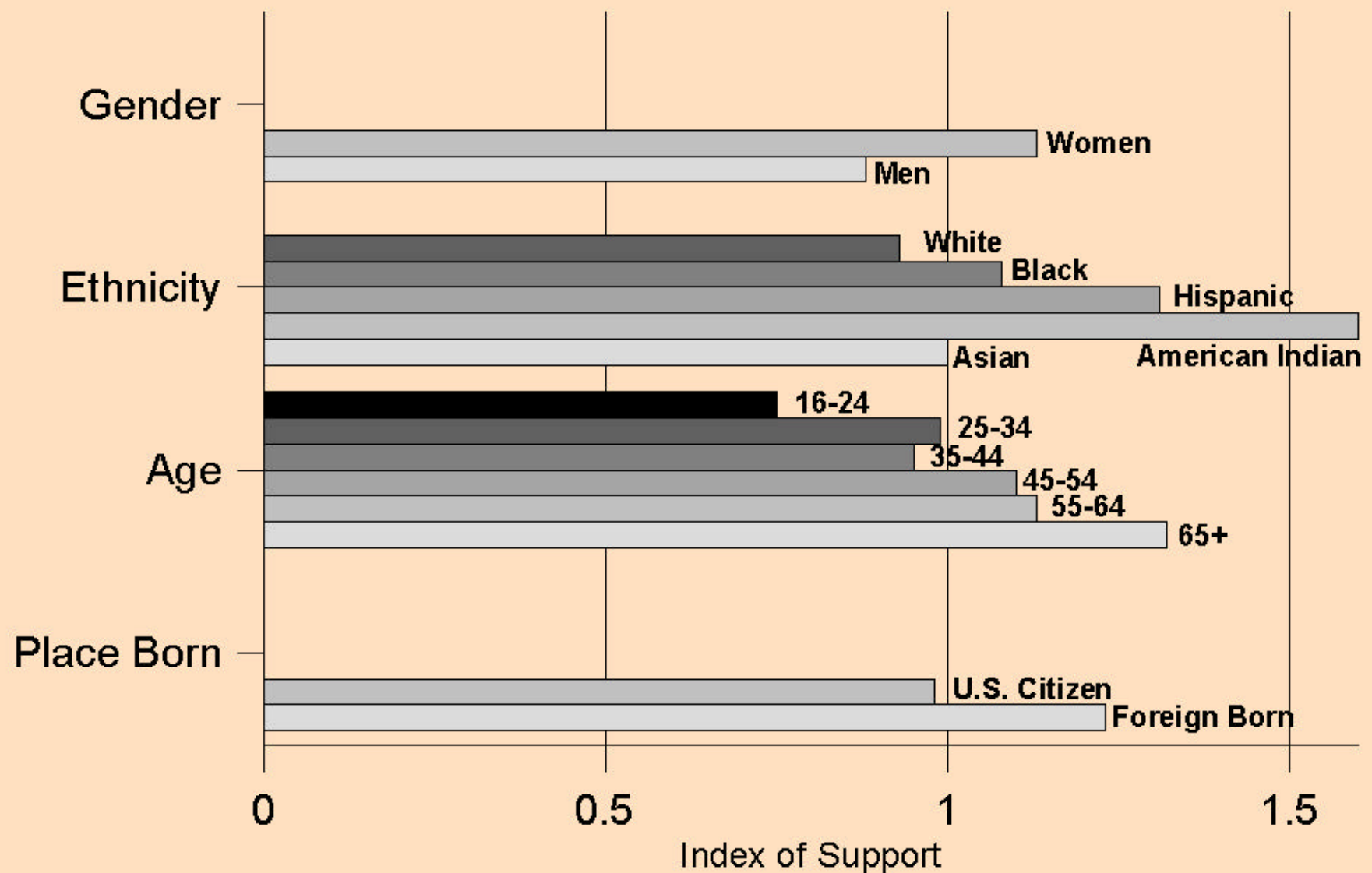
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Just knowing that wilderness and primitive areas exist



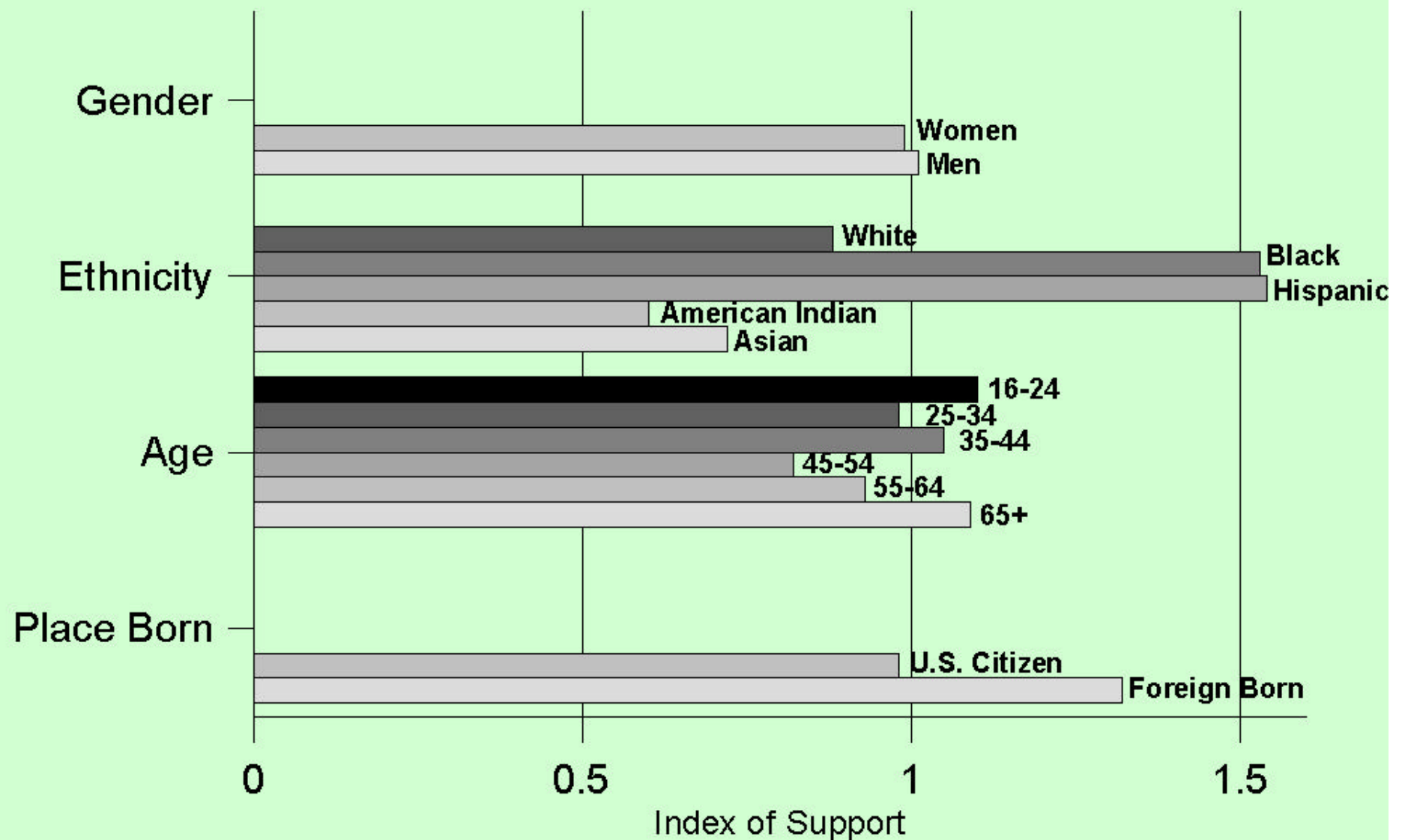
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Providing scenic beauty



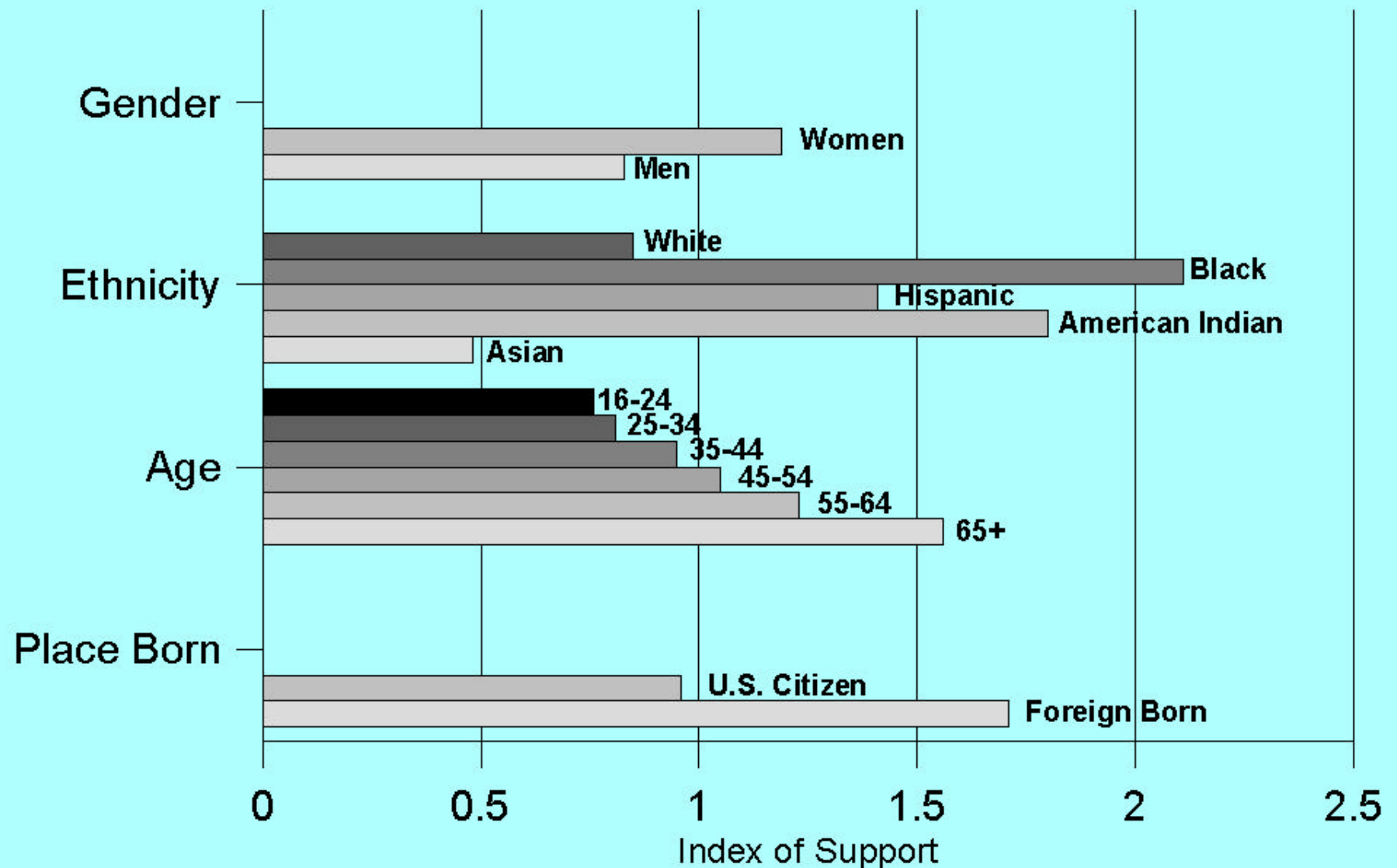
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Providing recreation opportunities



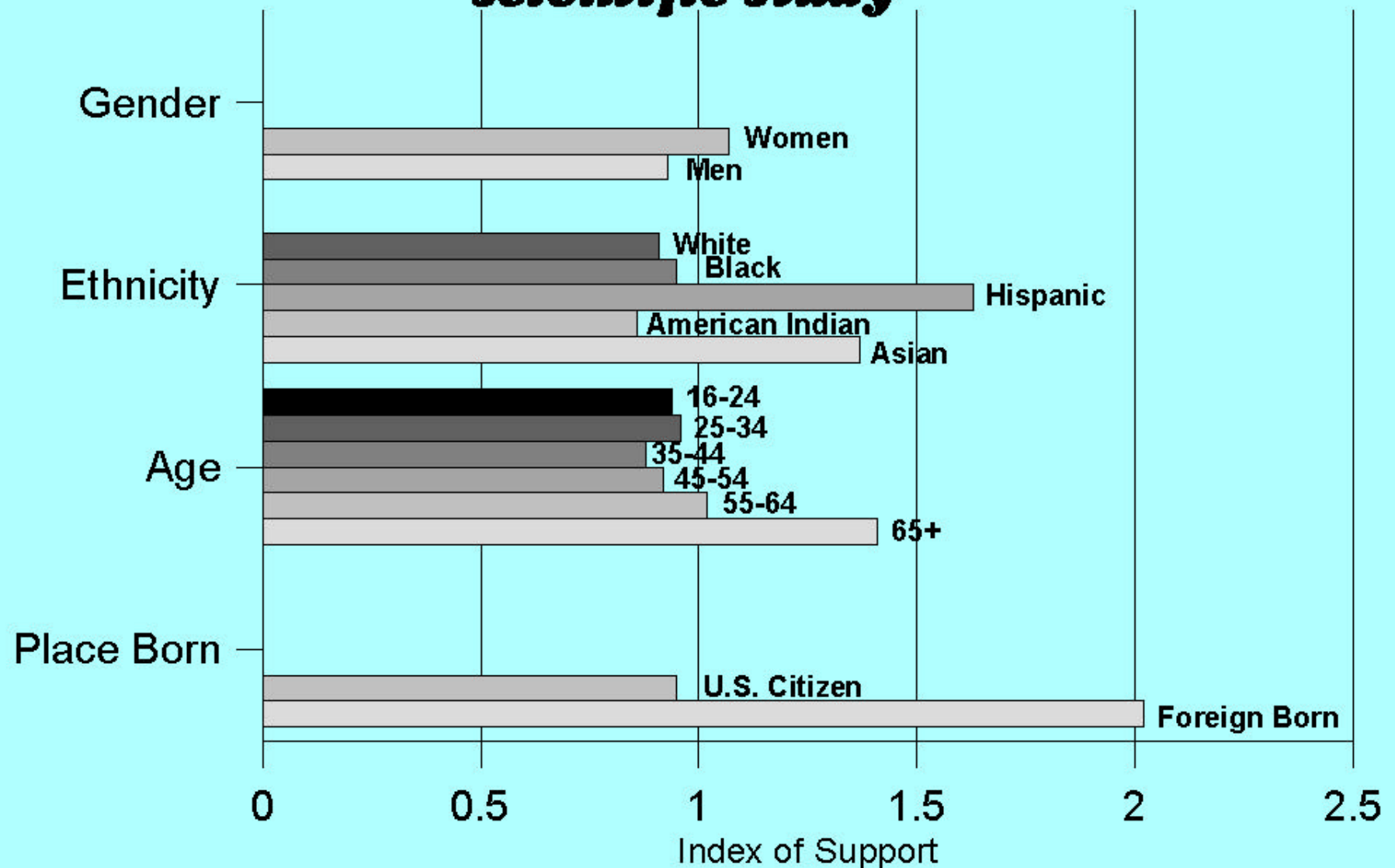
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Providing spiritual inspiration



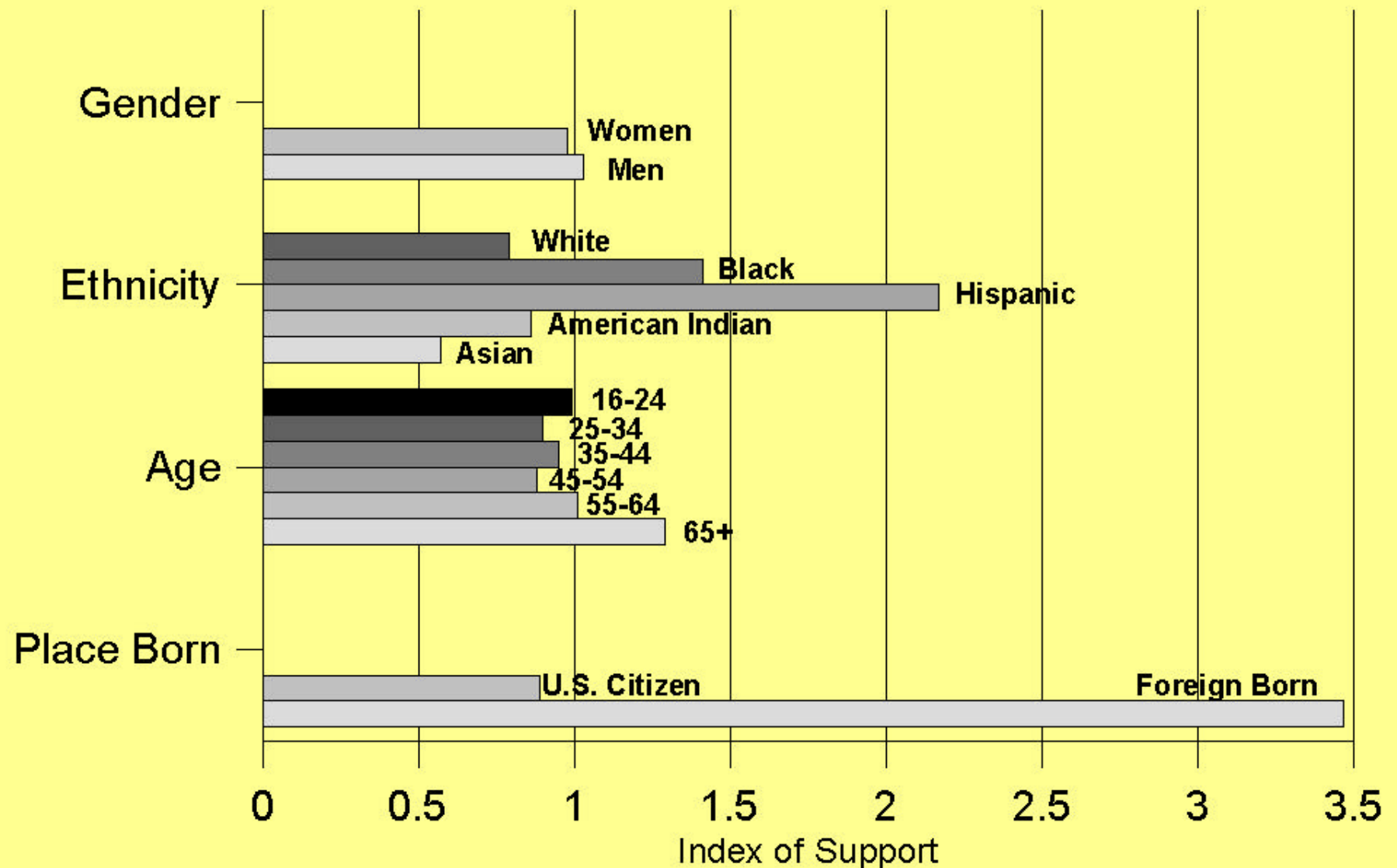
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Preserving natural areas for scientific study



The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Providing income for the tourist industry



Public Thoughts on Public Lands



Public Land Management Objectives MOST Desired by the Public

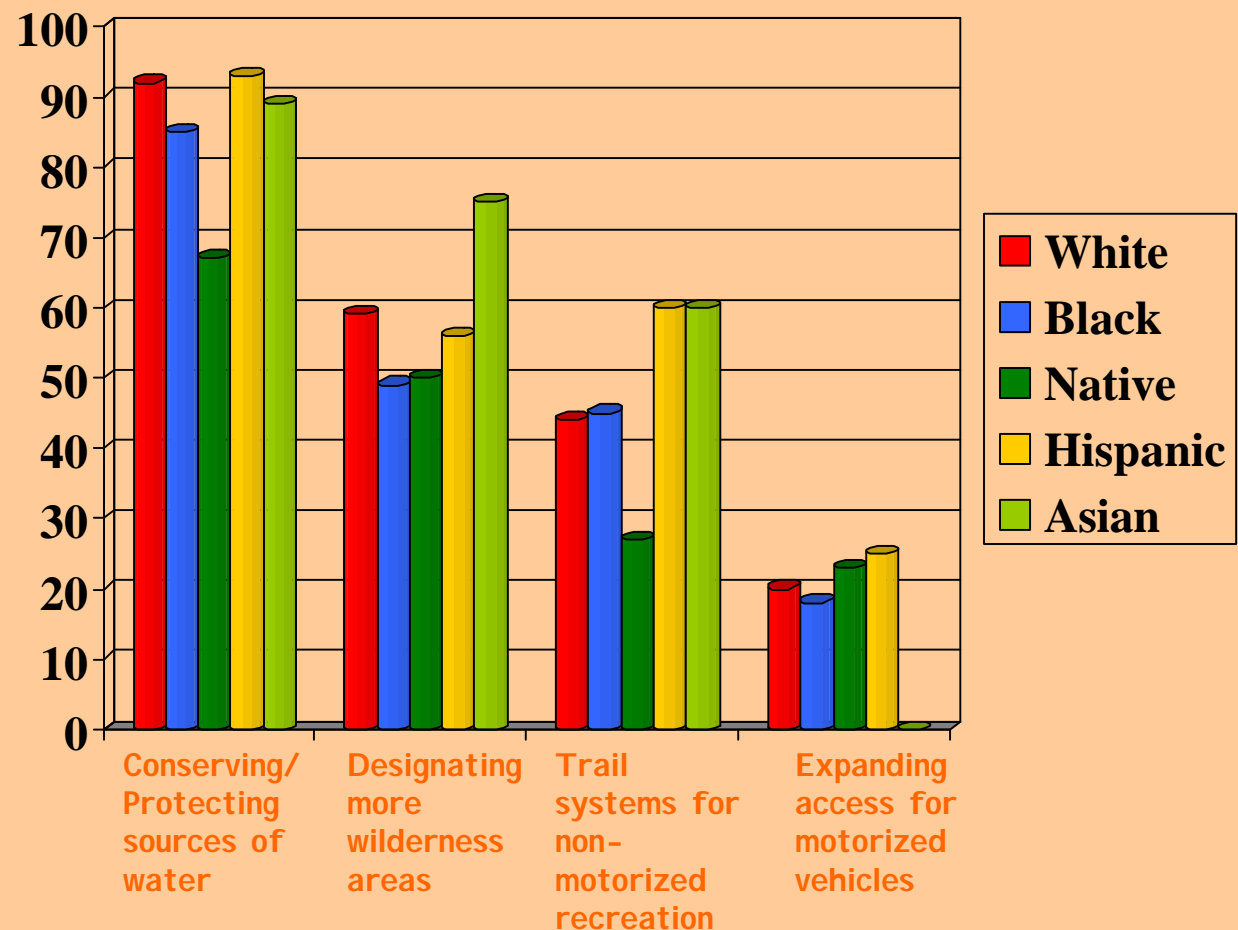
- ❖ Conserve and protect natural sources of water (91.4%)
- ❖ Better information for users, such as respect for wildlife and trail etiquette (87.2%)
- ❖ Protect natural ecosystems and wildlife habitats (86.0%)
- ❖ More use of volunteers for resource protection and improvement (85.6%)
- ❖ Better information for users about use impacts (81.1%)
- ❖ Consistent policy for guiding resource uses and management (76.0%)



Public Land Management Objectives LEAST Desired by the Public

- Develop more trails for motorized uses (28.9%)
- Expand commercial recreation uses (28.2%)
- Make special use permits easier to get (27.3%)
- Trade public lands for private lands to consolidate public holdings (22.1%)
- Expand access to motorized vehicles (19.8%)
- Develop more paved roads (19.2%)

COMPARING IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC LAND OBJECTIVES BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS



Perceptions

- American Indians showed greatest support for top 5 values, Hispanics greatest support for lowest 4 values
- Hispanics more likely to indicate Wilderness should exist for human-oriented “gratification”
 - scientific study
 - tourism \$\$
 - recreation
- Foreign-born more supportive of all wilderness values except air and water quality. Data would suggest strong support for wilderness among foreign-born.

Wilderness Perceptions

Race/ethnicity	Wildlife Habitat	Spiritual Inspiration	Water Quality
White	87.1 (4,020)	54.5 (3,929)	93.3 (4,031)
Hispanic	93.3 (372)	63.2 (361)	92.5 (374)
Black	90.4 (366)	74.4 (360)	92.7 (369)
American Indian	90.0 (60)	69.5 (59)	98.3 (60)
Asian American	89.1 (92)	48.3 (87)	91.3 (92)

Wilderness Perceptions

Race/ethnicity	Plants and animals	Rare and endangered	Future generations
White	78.5 (4,017)	81.3 (4,012)	88.0 (4,022)
Hispanic	88.9 (370)	93.0 (372)	86.5 (363)
Black	85.0 (366)	88.8 (365)	78.0 (368)
American Indian	93.3 (60)	88.3 (60)	88.3 (60)
Asian American	85.0 (93)	83.9 (93)	84.6 (91)

Proportion Visiting

Race/ethnicity	Primitive Area	Wilderness
White	40.2 (11,798)	45.7 (3,769)
Hispanic	29.2 (990)	18.8 (361)
Black	20.3 (1,049)	17.5 (355)
American Indian	49.8 (991)	40.7 (54)
Asian American	32.4 (992)	25.3 (87)

Wilderness-Type Activities

Race/ethnicity	Day hiking	Primitive camping
White	37.2 (11,815)	13.2 (11,826)
Hispanic	44.3 (990)	11.4 (992)
Black	12.0 (1,051)	4.5 (1,051)
American Indian	34.5 (206)	16.9 (207)
Asian American	37.6 (242)	13.2 (242)

Some Considerations...

Behavior

- ✓ Blacks and Hispanics less likely to visit Wilderness
- ✓ Blacks less likely to engage in wildland type activities

Important difference between environmental perception and environmental behavior

What accounts for gap in perception or concern and actual behavior?

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made available along with
other information of
interest on our website.**

www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends